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District of Columbia

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Veteran MPD Officer Sentenced to Twelve Months in Jail for Embezzlement of More Than \$170,000 in Overtime Compensation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Karin Coppens, a former officer with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) since 1985, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Rosemary M. Collyer to serve 12 months and one day in jail after pleading guilty to embezzling \$178,611.87 from MPD in one of the largest time and attendance fraud cases in the history of the department, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced.

Coppens, 49, pleaded guilty in September 2009 to a one-count Information charging theft from a program receiving federal funds. According to a Statement of Facts adopted by Coppens at the time she pleaded guilty, from August 2004 through June 2008, Coppens submitted bogus weekly time sheets that included more than 3400 hours of overtime for work purportedly performed as part of MPD's Photo Radar Overtime Program – a program that allows officers to earn overtime pay for enforcing traffic violations. Coppens was never trained to participate in that program and never performed any work as part of that program. Rather, Coppens forged the signature of a supervisor on more than 94 time sheets making the crime almost undetectable. As part of the defendant's sentence, Judge Collyer ordered Coppens to make full restitution to the Metropolitan Police Department in the amount of \$178,611.87. As part of her plea agreement, Coppens voluntarily resigned from MPD.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor praised the hard work of the investigative agents involved in this matter, especially Special Agent James McGwire of the Metropolitan Police Department Internal Affairs Division. He also acknowledged the efforts of Auditor Robert Jodoin, as well as Assistant United States Attorney John W. Borchert, who prosecuted this matter.

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